

## Children's Home Volunteers



### Highlights

- Bringing happiness and fun to the homes of children who have all ready been through a lot in life despite their tender years.
- Coming up with new activities for the children and youths and watching as their self-confidence grows.
- Exploring Peru during your free time – Machu Picchu is not to be missed!

### About The Project

Sadly in Peru, many children find themselves with nowhere to live after either being abandoned by their families or running away from home. The centers in Cusco with which we work were set up in 1997 and provide a safe haven for such children who would otherwise find themselves risking the dangers of life on the streets. The homes aim to provide education and vocational training to the children, as well as a stable environment in which to live. Each centre is home to up to 65 children, whose ages range from 6 to 20 years old and the age group you will be working with depends on the centre into which you are placed. Please let us know at the time of booking if you have a preference and wherever possible we will place you with your requested age group.

### Volunteer Role

The first Monday at the Academia is an orientation day. All new students and volunteers go on a city tour of Cusco to get to know the city and learn how to get around and use the public transport system. In the afternoon there's an information session in which you will learn about the Academia, as well as about important issues such as security, do's and don'ts in Cusco, accommodation, volunteer work etc. Your volunteer placement commences on Tuesday of the first week.



As a volunteer, you will usually work mornings or afternoons, however, since the children live full time at the homes, there is always plenty to do, so any additional time you can dedicate will be appreciated.

You days will be busy and varied and volunteer work may include some or all of the following:

- Singing
- Playing games
- Organizing creative activities such as arts and crafts
- Assisting teachers with educational lessons in maths and languages
- Helping with vocational workshops such as sewing, knitting and ceramics
- Organizing and teaching sports

- Teaching basic reading and writing
- Cooking and tidying

Despite their tender age, many of the children have experienced very difficult upbringings, and it's important that you are patient with the children and able to listen and talk to them about their backgrounds should they wish.

### Location



The children's homes are a 20 minute walk from the Academia in Cusco.

The city of Cusco sits perched amidst the clouds and the lush Andean greenery at 3300 meters above sea level. Due to the high elevation, it is cool at night, and sunny but cool during the day all year-round - this can be a great excuse to seek out the many markets selling the beautiful wool sweaters and textiles for which the country is renowned!

It's undoubtedly the archaeological capital of the Americas, as the gateway to Machu Picchu, and as such, is an exciting place to spend an extended period of time. Not only is it surrounded by beautiful Incan ruins, but you will be living in the hustle and bustle of a tourist city that still manages to retain many of its traditional ways of life. The narrow cobblestoned streets are lined with imposing Inca-built walls, and the plazas are thronged with Quechua-speaking descendants of the Incas.

Since Cusco is such an important tourist destination, it's no surprise to hear that there is a huge wealth of cafes, restaurants, bars and nightclubs to keep you entertained - a fun and varied social life is guaranteed in Cusco! Shopping is also another favorite past time amongst volunteers and students in Cusco, with some of the best places to pick up jewellery, leather crafts, textiles, woollen sweaters, musical instruments and other artisan products.

### Accommodation

You will stay either at the student residence or with a host family. Host family accommodation includes a private room, breakfast, dinner and laundry service. Singles, married couples and parents with children can all be accommodated. It is also possible to stay in a student residence – one is located within the school grounds, and there are two very nearby. Here you will self cater - there are shops and markets very nearby and a fully equipped kitchen.

### Requirements

Volunteers must be able to commit to at least 4 weeks at the project in order to build up a trusting relationship with the children and staff.

All volunteers must hold a high intermediate level of spoken Spanish. If your Spanish is at a lower level, you must join our Spanish language school prior to commencing your volunteer work.

When choosing to volunteer in a developing country such as Peru, it is important to remain flexible as the needs of the project are constantly evolving. This is what makes volunteering so rewarding – the fact that you are on hand to lend your support when and where it is needed. By choosing Academia Latinoamericana de Español you will

have a comprehensive safety network behind you as we are here to help throughout the duration of your entire stay!

### **Feedback**

*"I shared some really special moments with the children at the project – it was an inspiring experience. I spent time showing them how to cook and knit, as well as simply taking the time to talk to the girls. It's important they know someone cares about them and they seemed to enjoy our conversations. It was a good experience and I genuinely felt useful. "*

Thea Van Vrijaldenhoven, Switzerland

### **Programme Fee Includes**

- Accommodation
- 2 meals per day if staying with a host family
- Project Support
- A donation that goes directly to your project
- Orientation and city tour
- Pre-departure information
- Laundry service if staying with a host family
- 24 hour emergency support

### **Programme Fee Does Not Include**

- International flights
- Meals if staying at the student residence
- Laundry service if staying at the student residence
- Visas
- Travel Insurance
- Inoculations
- Excursions over and above the itinerary

### **Travel Ideas**

At our office we are fully equipped to help you with making weekend travel arrangements, and onwards travel arrangements following your time in Cusco. We work with the best tour companies to offer safe, reliable and competitively priced trips. Some of the most popular excursions include:

- In and Around Cusco – at the weekends there are plenty of sights for you to explore in and around Cusco. There's the beautiful Chinchero Plaza, possibly the original Incan marketplace. Ollantaytambo fortress, where the Inca fought their last battle with the Spanish invaders. Pisac Indian market – one of the most well-known markets in the country, selling everything from textiles and paintings to vegetables and animals!
- Machu Picchu – No visit to Cusco is complete without seeing the enchanting and dramatic Incan citadel of Machu Picchu. The most famous route is via the multi-day Inca Trail route, however, there are plenty of alternative routes that also culminate in Machu Picchu, including a scenic train journey!
- Nazca Lines – A great mystery of South America. Take a flight across the stony plains of Pampa de San Jose and see for yourself the incredible animal-shaped and geometric etchings.
- The Amazon – Swing in hammocks, swim with pink river dolphins, spot exotic wildlife and pretend to be Tarzan! The ultimate Peruvian adventure!
- Lake Titicaca – South America's largest Lake which borders Peru and Bolivia. Stay on one of the floating islands for a true insight into the lifestyle and culture of the local communities.

**Apply Now**

If you have some further questions about this project, please feel free to contact us at [sandra@latinoschools.ec](mailto:sandra@latinoschools.ec)

If you would like to book this programme, please [click here](#) to complete the booking form. We will be in touch within one week of application to confirm your booking!